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DDE FILE

ACTING CHIEF
POLICY COORDINATION STAFF

31 October 1972

Dr. Tordella

You may be interested in a quick review of the
attached produced by Fred Griffin with Cal's
help.

DDE

D. D. CROSKERY

Incl:
a/s

Dayf: 1 N W
I'd like to have this
original back on about 5-6 Dec.
Thanks.
Wardle
This has been done.
DDE
12 Dec

~~TOP SECRET~~

TO: Mr. Harold H. Callahan^{cat}
NSAFM, D4

SC-11478/72

FROM: Mr. Fred Griffin

30 October 1972

*Cat: This is the little package I finally
came up with. There's no news in it for
you, but I thought you might want
it for ready reference. Thanks for finding
the documents for me.*

Fred

HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS

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SC-11478/72

27 October 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Historical Note on the UKUSA COMINT Agreement

1. The question occasionally arises as to the governmental levels at which the UKUSA COMINT Agreement was authorized or approved. The attached documents show that the President of the United States authorized an agreement in this field, and that the British Foreign Minister must have been aware of it.

2. Attachment A is a copy of a Presidential Memorandum, dated 12 September 1945, authorizing the continuation of wartime U.S.-British "collaboration in the field of communication intelligence."

3. Attachment B is a copy of an 8 February 1946 page from the notebook which formed the principal basis for the published Diaries of the late Secretary of Defense Forrestal. The account of the meeting contained in this excerpt shows the high levels of the U.S. at which the Agreement was considered, and suggests that Secretary of State Byrnes had discussed the matter with British Foreign Minister Bevin.

4. Attachment C is a copy of the account of the above-mentioned meeting as it appeared in the published Diaries. At the request of the Department of Defense, the editors deleted all references to communications intelligence and Sir Edward Travis. They developed an innocent introductory sentence, omitted the first paragraph, and changed the subtitle from "Communications Intelligence" to "Meeting." (Not pertinent to this discussion, but of some editorial interest, is the deletion of "not" from the sixth line of the original notebook.)

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5. The UKUSA Agreement was ultimately signed on 5 March 1946 by Col. Patrick Marr-Johnson, British Army General Staff, for and in behalf of the London Signal Intelligence Board (LSIB), and by Lt. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, GSC, Senior Member, for and in behalf of the State-Army-Navy Communications Board (STANCIB). The parties to the Agreement are described as STANCIB, "(representing the U. S., State, Navy, and War Departments and all other U. S. Communication Intelligence authorities which may function)" and LSIB "(representing the Foreign Office, Admiralty, War Office, and all other British Empire Communication Intelligence authorities which may function)."

6. Obviously, these parties and signatories were themselves hardly operating at a lofty diplomatic level; however, the documents contained in the Attachments show that they were not working unilaterally or without authority and approval at the highest levels.

(signed) Fred Griffin
FRED GRIFFIN
Historical Officer
Division D

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Secretary of State
The Secretary of War
The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy are hereby authorized to direct the Chief of Staff, U. S. Army and the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, and Chief of Naval Operations to continue collaboration in the field of communication intelligence between the United States Army and Navy and the British, and to extend, modify or discontinue this collaboration, as determined to be in the best interests of the United States.

/s/ Harry S. Truman

12 September 1945

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